

Deane Church Magazine

November



2004



November 2004 Diary

November 7 3 before Advent

9am Communion CW

10.30am Family Worship and Parade

6pm Communion

November 14 Remembrance Sunday

9am Communion 1662

10.30am Remembrance Day Service

6pm Service of the Word

November 21 Next before Advent

9am Communion 1662

10.30am Family Worship and Baptism

6pm Communion

November 28 Advent Sunday

9am Communion 1662

10.30am Family Communion

6pm Service of the Word

Communion Readings for November 2004

November 7 3 before Advent

Job 19 v23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2 v1-5&13-17 Luke 20 v27-38

November 14 Remembrance Sunday

Malachi 4 v1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3 v6-13 Luke 21 v5-19

November 21 Next before Advent

Jeremiah 23 v1-6 Colossians 1 v11-20 Luke 23 v33-43

November 28 Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2 v1-5 Romans 13 v11-14 Matthew 24 v36-44

December 5 Advent 2

Isaiah 11 v1-10 Romans 15 v4-13 Matthew 3 v1-12

The Rector Writes

At St Mary's School over these last few weeks I have been talking to the children during the assemblies about harvest. We've been thinking about such things as sharing unselfishly, sharing what we have, sharing ourselves, and saying "Thank you". Harvest is indeed a rich theme for us, as Christian people, to dwell upon. I know for instance that if I want my life to be fruitful I must cultivate good roots, eliminate the weeds, and cooperate with God's pruning by thanking and praising him. I must also wait for the harvest.

Growth in the Christian life does not happen overnight, it takes time. It's not instantaneous. When you examine your spiritual growth you may wonder, "Why is it taking me so long to get better? I've been a Christian for years and I'm not seeing much change. I'm still struggling with so many problems. Why?"

Well spiritual growth is like natural growth, it takes time: the best fruit ripens slowly. Notice what Jesus says in John 12:24. He said "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

The point Jesus stresses here is that death precedes life. Just as a grain of wheat must die to produce fruit, so must we die to ourselves to produce spiritual growth. And dying to our own selfishness takes time.

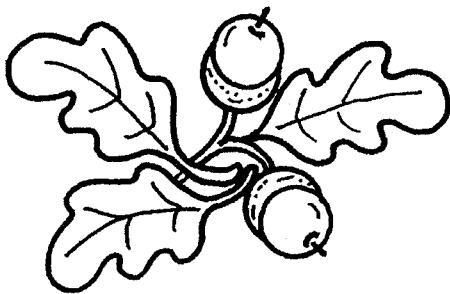
Remaining in Christ means keeping in contact with him, depending on him, living for him and trusting him to do his work in our lives in his perfect timing. Never give up. Wait for God's promised harvest and, in the meantime, enjoy his presence in your life.

Are you seeing spiritual fruit in your life? Perhaps you have memorized the fruit list in Galatians 5:22-23. If not I'd encourage you to do so. The NIV lists the harvest as this: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Think about how these qualities could be seen in the life of Jesus, and count on him to produce them in you by the working of his Holy Spirit. If you're not seeing as much fruit in your life as you'd like, don't despair. Remember that growth takes time. In addition there are four very simple, practical steps to take if you're serious about a fruitful, productive Christian life.

1. Begin cultivating deep roots by spending time in Gods Word very day.
2. Then eliminate the weeds in your life that eat up your time and energy and distract you from doing Gods will.
3. Next cooperate with God in the pruning process by thanking and praising him for what he is doing in your life. He is working to make you more fruitful than you ever thought possible.
4. Finally, wait expectantly for the harvest of spiritual fruit in your life. If you've followed the first three steps, the harvest is inevitable.

In 1968 a scientist discovered a 600 year old seed necklace in an Indian grave. He planted one of the seeds, and it sprouted and grew. Though it had been dormant for 600 years, the potential for life was still there. Maybe you feel like you've become spiritually dormant, but your desire now is to be fruitful. Well the good news is that it's never too late! You can begin now. Tell God you want to cooperate with his growth plan, and he will provide the power to change.



All Saints' Day

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

*(Maurice Frost (ed.), *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

Bits and Pieces

Ladies Guild

November 2	Slides	Brian White
November 16	North Country Folklore	Peter Watson
November 30	Christmas Meal	

Reading and Intercession Rotas

David Dewhurst will soon be working on the 2005 rotas for those who read at the 9am and 10.30am services and those who lead the intercessions at 10.30am. If you would like your name to be added to any of these rotas, please speak to David as soon as possible. In the same way, if you would like your name to be removed from the list, please have a word with David. Do volunteer if you can. The more names there are, the less often your week comes around!

Harvest Thanks

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for the Harvest Festival and all who helped in any way with the distribution of Harvests gifts to the sick and elderly. Your assistance was much appreciated. Many messages and letters of thanks have come in from those who received the gifts.

Baptism

On Sunday 19th September we welcomed into membership of the church family through baptism Ethan Beresford Unsworth, the son of Jason Scott Unsworth and Rebecca Louise Unsworth.



The number of different books
needed for some services
was quite overwhelming

Operation Christmas Child. You can make a Difference

On Sunday 7th November Deane will be celebrating **The Gift of Life** by holding a Shoebox Sunday as part of the worldwide charity, Operation Christmas Child. Each shoebox is our gift of love to desperately needy children.

Operation Christmas Child has set a target to distribute 1,100,000 shoeboxes from the UK this Christmas. The shoeboxes will be going to twelve different countries ranging from Romania, Hungary, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Armenia to Azerbaijan and also for the first time to Mozambique in southern Africa and Kyrgyzstan in central Asia.

Don't forget to bring you shoebox to church on November 7th. You can also help by doing any or all of the suggestions below.

- 1 Enable your gift to go further By Gift Aiding your donation included in the OCC envelope (attached to the leaflet).
- 2 Encourage friends, neighbours and work colleagues to fill a shoebox.
- 3 Pray for the campaign and for the millions of children around the world who will receive shoeboxes this year.

Progress Report on the Knit-a-thon

Julie Cooper reports that the army of knitters are still clicking away and the number of hats produced has grown to over 400. This is fantastic. Keep up the good work! **HAPPY KNITTING!**

Please let Julie have the hats by Sunday 14th November as she and Jessica are visiting the main warehouse in Wrexham that Sunday where shoeboxes are checked. Our hats will be added to boxes which need an extra gift in them. The shoeboxes are then sealed and put into cartons for transportation.

How to Grow Deane Church: Engaging With Our Community

'You are the salt of the earth' (Matt 5:13). Through this picture Jesus challenges the church to engage effectively with its surrounding community. We are called to communicate the love of God, as we live out a practical and relevant gospel that people can understand, relate to and benefit from. It means engaging with people at the bus stop or school gates, in the workplace or pub, among the homeless or on the football pitch.

So where do we start? We have to be honest about our strengths and weaknesses, as well as realistic about what we can do to share God's love with those around us. We also need to be listening to the surrounding culture, in order to understand peoples' felt needs and to discover the opportunities.

For example, loneliness and isolation are commonplace today, especially with more and more people living alone for different reasons. Many are looking for a supportive community in which they can find acceptance and their needs met. Here is a great opportunity for any church to offer practical and unconditional help e.g., through a parenting group, play scheme, over 60's club, baby-sitting service, skills workshop, debt clinic or a young peoples' drop-in centre.

As you think about the community around us, think through the following questions:

1. What is the community (geographical or networks) that you consider to be our church's responsibility?
2. What sort of community is it - in terms of housing, age of population, racial patterns, general culture, sub-cultural groups, income level, and environmental issues?
3. What needs within this community could be met by our church?
4. How effectively could this be done? What future needs can be anticipated and prepared for?

SERMON NOTEBOOK: "Founding Fathers of Our Faith"

Samson: Judges 16

In many ways it's surprising to find Samson's name among the great men of faith (Heb 11:32), as his exploits bring little credit to him. Although we are told more about his private life than his public responsibilities, Samson is a powerful reminder of how God can use flawed people in his purposes.

Samson (16:1-3)

The chapter begins with an incident typical of Samson's life. He sleeps with a prostitute in the heart of enemy territory at Gaza, while employing his God-given strength to escape a Philistine ambush. Typically Samson uses his gifts for wrong and selfish motives rather than for God and his people.

* In what ways can this also be true of us?

Delilah (16:4-22)

This incident naturally leads into the tragedy of Samson's end, when he falls in love with Delilah. She demands a high price for betraying Samson to the Philistines, who want to subdue him. Despite her constant questions about his strength, Samson refuses to give away the secret. However, Delilah's daily nagging takes its toll, as he finally reveals the source of his strength: a sacred Nazirite vow taken at birth. Therefore, because Samson betrays God's trust, the vow is broken and the Lord leaves him.

* By contrast, how can stay 'strong in the Lord' (Eph 6:10)?

His End (16:23-31)

As a lonely, blind figure Samson is finally bound and set to grinding in prison. Despite his weaknesses and in response to his prayer, God does strengthen him as he dies among the Philistines in the shattered ruins of their temple.

* How has God answered our prayers in unexpected circumstances? This story really is good news, as it assures us that God will use us in his purposes, despite our failings!

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old.

"All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock or the 10.30?"

Signs found outside churches...not yet at Deane!

* Church car park sign... FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

* Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

* Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

* Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

* Thursday at 10am there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All those wishing to become little Mothers are welcome to meet our new minister in the vicarage...

SUMMARY OF INCOME FOR MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER 2003 VS SEPTEMBER 2004

	SEPTEMBER 2003	SEPTEMBER 2004
LOOSE COLLECTION	378.62	453.08
GIVING ENVELOPES	2,327.74	2,202.90
STANDING ORDERS	1,158.50	910.50
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>3,616.86</u>	<u>3,814.48</u>
ACTUAL INCREASE/DECREASE		+£197.62
% INCREASE/DECREASE		+5.5%

WHO'S WHO

Rector: Ian Mainey
(Telephone 01204 61818)

Vicar: Paul Ellis
(01204 651851)

Readers: David Dewhurst
(01204 651347)
Nola Kilsby
(01204 492351)

Wardens: Les Kilsby
(01204 492351)
Bryan Shephard
(01942 817288)
Craig Mochrie
(01204 652324)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Lay Chair: Jane Hampson
(01204 648433)

Honorary Treasurer: Alan Cheatham
(01204 405829)

Honorary Secretary: Les Kilsby
(01204 492351)

CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS

Buildings & Fabric: Mike Kirby
Worship: Elizabeth Plant
Social: Chris Dewhurst-Taylor

OTHER OFFICIALS

Organist: Jim Needham
(0161 723 5860)
Flowers: Josie Crompton (01204 655964)
Archivist: Rodney Howard
(01024 652417)
Gift Aid: Les Kilsby
Secretary: (01204 492351)
Deane: Elizabeth Plant
Church News: (01204 63730)

MEMORIAL HALL

Bookings: Julie Cooper
(01024 660946)
Caretaker: Ian Cooper
(01024 660946)

WHAT'S ON

Scramblers: 3 to 5 years
Climbers: 5 to 7 years
Lynda Smith (01024 62093)

Explorers: 7 to 11 years
Elaine Cockerham (01204 650347)

All meet in the Memorial Hall on Sundays at 10.30am

Pathfinders: 11 to 14 years
CYFA: 14 to 18 years
Ian Gardiner (01204 660460)
The Memorial Hall Fridays 7.15 - 9.00pm

BELL RINGERS

Practice Night Wednesdays at 7.30pm
Kenneth Higson & Anthea Morris (01024 63754)

CHURCH CHOIR

Rehearsals on Sundays at 12 noon (except third Sunday - see Music Group below)
Jim Needham (0161 723 5860)

MUSIC GROUP

Rehearsals on each third Sunday at 12 noon
Becky Rutter (01942 814948)

LADIES GROUPS

Meet in the Memorial Hall
Ladies Guild: Alternate Tuesdays at 7.45pm
Pat Sewell (01204 61278)
Parents & Toddlers: Thursdays at 1.30pm
Jean Mainey (01204 61619)

DEANE LUNCH & LEISURE

Wednesdays 12 noon to 2.30pm
Julie Cooper (01204 660946)

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut

Brownies: 1. Tuesdays at 6.45pm
Ann Calderbank (398206)
2. Wednesdays at 6.30pm
Janet Bamsley (01772 322247)

Guides: Mondays at 7.15pm
Carole Baxendale (418167)

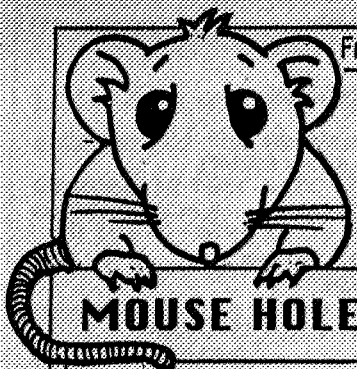
Cubs: Thursdays at 6.45pm
Mike Ash (436036)

Beavers: Monday at 5.45pm
Liz Yarwood (855163)

Rainbows: Fridays at 8.30pm
Margaret Latchford (657101)

www.deaneparish.info

Initial enquiries for Baptism and Banns of Marriage should be directed to the Rector

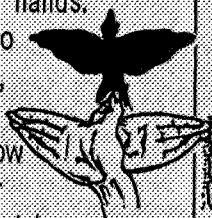


MOUSE HOLE

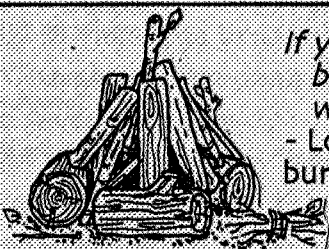
Shadow Play

If you stand in a dark room in front of the light from a fire or the beam of a spot light, you can make shadow pictures on the wall with your hands.

Have a go at these, then put on shadow show for your friends!



From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...



If you were to build a big bonfire, what would you need?

- Lots of dry wood to burn and matches to light the fire.

God's prophet Elijah built a BIG bonfire and had the prophets of the god 'Baal' build one too.

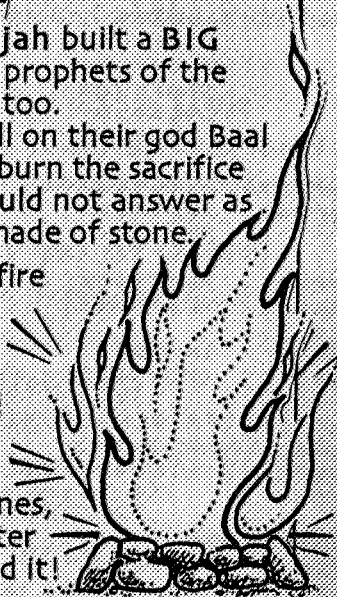
He told them to call on their god Baal to light the fire and burn the sacrifice on top... but Baal could not answer as he was just an idol made of stone.

Elijah had his bonfire drenched in water, then he called on the Lord God... the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice,

- the wood, the stones, the soil and the water in the trench around it!

...and all the people who saw this cried

*"The Lord - he is God,
The Lord - he is God".*



Read the whole story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings:18:16-40

Fireside Food

With an adult to help you, here's fun food to make and eat around the fire

- Roast sweet chestnuts in a pan on a fire or in the oven.
- Pop popcorn in a pan!



Stuff chocolate into a slit banana and wrap in foil. Get an adult to put it in the embers of a fire or in a oven and take out when soft. Take care, it'll be hot!